



SPRAYBERRY HIGH SCHOOL BAND OF GOLD

2525 Sandy Plains Road
Marietta, Georgia 30066
770-578-3210
www.sprayberryband.com

2023-2024 Band Syllabus Fall Term

Mission Statement

It is the mission of the Sprayberry High School Band Program to develop a lifelong appreciation for music and the arts within each of our students. In addition, we strive to help students build skills that will allow them to be valuable members of society once they graduate Sprayberry High School.

Classes Offered

Concert Band

The Concert Band, which meets 1st Period every day, is comprised of musicians who display the ability to perform music appropriate to the GMEA Level 3, 4 and 5 repertoire list. Students in this band will work to meet the Sprayberry High School Band "Intermediate" Level Requirements by the end of the school year.

Students in this ensemble are required to attend all concerts, announced afterschool rehearsals as needed in January, February and March, and the Large Group Performance Evaluation in March. Students in this ensemble are encouraged to audition for the GMEA District 12 Honor Band and the GMEA All-State Band.

Symphonic II Band

The Symphonic II Band, which meets 2nd Period every day, is comprised of musicians who display the ability to perform music appropriate to the GMEA Level 4, 5 and 6 repertoire list. Students in this band will work to meet the Sprayberry High School Band "Advanced" Level Requirements by the end of the school year. Membership in this ensemble is by audition only and may be revoked at any time due to lack of preparation or discipline issues.

Students in this ensemble are required to attend all concerts, announced afterschool rehearsals as needed in January, February and March, and the Large Group Performance Evaluation in March. Students in this ensemble are encouraged to audition for the GMEA District 12 Honor Band and the GMEA All-State Band.

Symphonic I Band

The Symphonic I Band, which meets 3rd Period every day, is comprised of musicians who display the ability to perform music appropriate to the Level 5 and 6 repertoire list. Membership in this ensemble is by audition only and may be revoked at any time due to lack of preparation or discipline issues. Students in this ensemble will prepare and perform literature of the highest difficulty and will work to meet the Sprayberry High School Band "Mastery" Level Requirements by the end of the school year.

Students will be expected to attend all concerts, announced afterschool rehearsals as needed in January, February and March, and the Large Group Performance Evaluation in March. Students in this ensemble are strongly encouraged to audition for the GMEA District 12 Honor Band and the GMEA All-State Band.

Percussion Methods (Fall Term Only)

The Percussion Methods Class, which meets 4th Period every day during the fall term, is comprised of all percussionists in the Sprayberry Band Program. Students in this method class will learn the techniques and fundamentals of multiple percussion instruments, as well as performing varied levels and styles of percussion music, including percussion ensemble and marching band, among others. Percussion students in this class will perform with the 3 concert bands (Concert Band, Symphonic II and Symphonic I) for all of



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their scheduled concerts, including the fall term concerts in November and December, as well as several Percussion Ensemble concerts in the spring.

At the end of the fall term, students in this class will audition for placement in one of the three band classes during the spring term.

Students in this class are required to attend all concerts, announced afterschool rehearsals as needed in January, February and March, and the Large Group Performance Evaluation in March. Students in this ensemble are encouraged to audition for the GMEA District 12 Honor Band and the GMEA All-State Band.

Other Ensembles

We also offer other ensembles under the umbrella of the Sprayberry Band in which students may participate. Some will meet during the band class, while others will be offered as an extracurricular activity. Information about each ensemble will be distributed as necessary. If you have interest in any of these ensembles, please contact one of the directors for information.

Marching Band - Extracurricular (July - November)

Jazz Band – Afterschool during Spring Term

Colorguard - Extracurricular (July - November)

Winterguard - Extracurricular (November - April)

Indoor Percussion Ensemble – Extracurricular (November – April)

Percussion Ensembles – In Percussion Techniques Fall Term and Band Classes Spring Term

Concerts

Members of the three Concert Bands (Symphonic I, Symphonic II and Concert Band) will present five concerts each year. All of these concerts are free and open to the public. Concerts will be held off campus due to limited on-site venues large enough to house our bands and spectators.

These concerts are formal events that act as conclusions to an instructional preparation period and serve to display the musical development of the class. **As such, it is vital that all students attend each concert.** Please plan well in advance so that there will not be a problem with transportation to or from a concert site, and please mark these events on your calendar now to avoid any type of double booking. Legitimate reasons for missing a concert include the following: death in the family, serious student illness, or unavoidable schedule conflict (must be explained *in writing* to the director at least one week before the performance). Unexcused absences consist of work or job related conflicts, problems with your instrument, scheduled doctor's appointments or minor surgery, problems with the required uniform, conflicts with extra-curricular school activities, lack of transportation, etc. If a student is going to miss a performance, the director must be notified immediately either by e-mail or voicemail. An unexcused absence will disqualify the student from receiving a varsity letter.

A student who misses a concert for any reason will perform all of their concert literature for a director within five school days so they can be evaluated on their progress during the preparation period. It is the students' responsibility to contact the director to schedule and complete the makeup performance time. Failure to perform the music for a director will result in the student receiving a 0 for the concert. In addition, students who regularly miss concerts will either be removed from the classroom experience or from the overall program.

Students will wear tuxedos and dresses owned and distributed by the Band Boosters during each performance, unless specifically instructed by the directors in advance. These uniforms will be distributed near the beginning of school and will then be kept by each family until they are returned after the Stardust Concert in May.



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Character

Members of any Sprayberry Band or Ensemble will be held to the highest standards of character at all times. Students will be continually instructed on how to be model citizens in the band, school and community. Should a student act in a way that does not conform to the expected standards, he/she will be subject to discipline within the band program and/or through school administration. Students who do not exhibit the highest levels of character may also be removed from the program at the directors' discretion.

Conduct

The following guidelines will be in place both on and off campus for all Sprayberry Band Events.

- All Cobb County Rules and Regulations will be enforced at all band functions
- No use of tobacco, alcohol or illicit drugs will be tolerated. Vaping is also not tolerated. Possession of any of these will result in disciplinary action in accordance with school policy or with local law enforcement officials. It may also result in expulsion from the band program.
- No abuse of school facilities or equipment will be tolerated. This includes, but is not limited to, instruments, uniforms, chairs, stands, or any physical structure located inside or outside the building.
- Absolutely no hazing, bullying or harassment of students will be tolerated.
- Profanity is not acceptable in any situation.
- Disrespect of students, instructors, parents, or directors will not be tolerated. This includes any person who is connected in any way with our program, school or community.

Bandroom Guidelines

- Students should remember that the bandroom (and all adjoining rooms) is a place of work that contains many valuable pieces of equipment. Horseplay or "goofing off" will not be allowed.
- There should never be food or drink (other than water) in the bandroom
- Chewing Gum is not permitted in the bandroom
- No hats or sunglasses should be worn in the building
- Do not touch or play any instrument other than your own. This includes all school owned percussion instruments.
- Practice rooms should only be used for practice or study.
- No one will be allowed to eat lunch in or around the Fine Arts Building. You may come down (with a pass from the band directors) following your lunch to practice, but no eating will be allowed anywhere in the Fine Arts Area or outside the room during the lunch periods.

Rehearsal Guidelines

- Students should enter class with a good attitude ready to learn and improve! Remember, "practice" at home and "rehearse" at school!
- All students must be in the room when the tardy bell rings. At that point, students will be given up to 4 additional minutes to retrieve and assemble their instrument and music, sit down and begin warming up. A student who is not in their seat ready to play when instruction begins will be counted tardy.
- Students should bring the following to every rehearsal:
 - Instrument and Mouthpiece
 - If your instrument is being repaired, you must bring a note from a parent or the repair shop in order to not lose points on your Daily Performance Evaluation.
 - Necessary Accessories specific to each instrument (reeds, valve oil, slide grease, etc.)
 - All Music that you could possibly need
 - Pencil



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- Socializing should be done before or after rehearsal! Any talking or communicating during rehearsal ensures that at least two people are not actively engaged in the learning process.
- Per School Rules, cell phones will not be allowed during class, even when being used as a tuner or metronome. Failure to abide by this rule will result in an immediate referral to administration.
- Bookbags and purses should be left outside of the band set during rehearsal.
- Students will not do homework for another class during rehearsal.

School Instruments

School Instruments are available for use by students. These instruments consist of:

- Tenor Saxophones
- Baritone Saxophones
- Bass Clarinets
- French Horns
- Trombones
- Euphoniums
- Tubas
- Large Percussion Equipment (Sticks and Mallets will be purchased by the students)

There are limited amounts of each, so it is likely that students will have to share this instrument with another person.

To use a school owned instrument, the student and parent must sign an instrument checkout form. These forms will be distributed within the first 10 days of class. Students will not be allowed to use a school owned instrument if this form is not signed and returned in a timely manner.

Percussionists will have the vast majority of their instruments provided by the school, but will be responsible for purchasing appropriate drumsticks, mallets and accessories. The list of necessary equipment will be distributed to the students within the first two weeks of class.

Lockers

All students will be assigned a locker within the bandroom. This locker will be used to house a student's instrument when they are at school. In addition, each student will be assigned a lock with combination to secure the locker. Students must use the assigned locks...no personal locks will be allowed.

Students should only store their instruments and necessary band equipment and materials in the locker. Students who play school owned instruments that are shared with another student will be housed in one locker, so that the instrument will always be kept in the same spot.

The lockers should be kept clean and tidy at all times. In addition, for safety and security, they should remain locked at all times when not being accessed, even during class.



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Grading Procedures

All Sprayberry Band Classes are instructed using the Georgia Standards of Excellence (GSE).

Formative Assessments (70%)

(Daily/Weekly Rehearsal Grades, Mid-Unit Assessments and Part Checks, Classwork, Written Assignments)

Summative Assessments (20%)

(End of Unit Assessments, Quizzes, Concert Evaluations, Concert Wrap-Ups)

Final Exam/Midterm (10%)

Band Dues

The Sprayberry High School Band receives a small amount of money from Cobb County, but this amount is not nearly enough to cover the multiple expenses faced by a band program of this magnitude. These expenses include, but are not limited to, purchasing and repairing instruments, offering specialized small group instruction from area professionals (including sectionals in class), renting concert venues, transporting equipment, purchasing music and uniforms and general administrative costs including supplies, website fees, etc. All these experiences require financial resources which are covered through the student dues. Each band member is asked to pay a "General Band Fee" of \$75 per semester plus a \$50 uniform fee to help support our program. The \$50 uniform fee covers the purchase, replacement and cleaning costs of the uniforms (Black Dresses for Ladies and Tuxedos for gentlemen) distributed to the students for use at our concerts. These payments are spread over multiple months and can be tailored in such a way as to make it easier for each family.

Concert Registration details will be distributed very soon!

PLEASE DO NOT LET ANY FINANCIAL ISSUES STOP YOU FROM HAVING YOUR STUDENT PARTICIPATE IN THE BAND PROGRAM. WE CAN WORK WITH YOU INDIVIDUALLY TO FIND A SOLUTION THAT WORKS FOR YOUR FAMILY! Fundraising activities are made available to all band families to help with fees and we will gladly work with you to address any financial questions/concerns you may have. If you have any questions or concerns please contact our Treasurers at treasurer@sprayberryband.com



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Keep up with our Program

It is important to stay up to date and involved in our program. Listed below are the easiest ways to keep up to date on the latest events in the Sprayberry Band of Gold!

1. Visit our webpage at www.sprayberryband.com Updated information and calendars are always available!
2. Follow us on Facebook! Simply "like" or "follow" Sprayberry High School Band (Official). Important information and reminders will be sent out when needed.
3. Follow us on Instagram at [sprayberry_band_of_gold](https://www.instagram.com/sprayberry_band_of_gold).
4. When you register your student you will register on our "Membership Toolkit". You will find valuable information in the portal that will help you throughout the year!
5. For class information, visit your CTLS Class Page. We will house a great deal of information regarding class activities, concerts and more within this area!